

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 55

July 2008

No. 7



## Calendar

Thurs., June 19	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Aug. 21	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 7 pm
Wed., June 25	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., Aug. 23	Annual family crab feast, pool (time TBA)
Mon., June 30	Town Council special session, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (see p. 7)	Mon., Aug. 25	Garrett Park Elementary open house for students/parents to meet teachers, 3–4 pm
Fri., July 4	4th of July activities (see article, p 2, and poster)	Tues., Aug. 26	Start of public school year
Sun., July 6	Art Opening/Reception, Penn Place, 2 pm	Wed., Aug. 27	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., July 12	Large item pickup; GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm; Adult party, Pool, 7 pm	Mon., Sept. 1	No trash pickup—Labor Day
Sun., July 13	Opera Highlights concert, Town Hall, 3 pm (see p 3); Grosvenor Market Day at the pool, 12–2 pm	Fri., Sept. 5	Film Society, <i>Children of Heaven</i> , Town Hall, 7 pm
Mon., July 14	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., Sept. 6	GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm
Tues., July 15	Swimming Pool Assoc. mtg., Pool, 8 pm	Sun., Sept. 7	Pool closes, 2 pm; Dog Swim, 7 pm
Thurs., July 17	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Mon., Sept. 8	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Fri., July 18	Film Society, <i>East is East</i> , Town Hall, 7 pm	Tues., Sept. 9	Lunch Bunch recommences, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 3 pm
Wed., July 23	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Wed., Sept. 10	GPES back-to-school night
Sat., Aug. 2	GIVES, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm	Thurs., Sept. 18	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
		Wed., Sept. 24	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
		Sun., Sept. 28	Newcomers Welcome (time TBA)

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# Hot News

Gamely ignoring an outside temperature nearly as high as the average person’s IQ and air that was more like broth, the Town Council sat down for its June meeting, casually clad and cooled by a Town Hall air-conditioning system held together by duct tape and luck. It was the perfect night to discuss July 4 plans and environmentally friendly lawn care. Too bad the actual topics included an ungrantable variance, an unfortunate lawsuit, and uncomfortable budget realities.

The variance pertained to a house on Oxford Street, which has a small front stoop and steps that are, by all accounts (including the owners’), dilapidated. Attempting to rectify the situation, the owners applied for a building permit to slightly expand—and then build a roof over—the stoop. Alas, the permit was denied, because of town setback ordinances. Hence the variance request, which the Council, it turned out, could not, in this case, legally grant. Setback rules aside, a careful measurement of the house, shed, garage, breezeway, deck, porch, stoop, and steps revealed that the combined structures cover 20.6 percent of the lot. The law allows no more than 20 percent coverage. That means the owners are back to the drawing board, trying to, in essence, color inside the lines.

In his mayor’s report, Chris Keller confirmed that the Montgomery County Department of Parks has committed funds to keep the Garrett Park Community Center (home to the Garrett Park Nursery School) open for at least one more fiscal year. The next step, said the Mayor, is to get some basic financial data on costs and repairs, in order to begin to identify the outlines of potential longer term solutions.

Mayor Keller also offered a carefully worded preview of his column for this month’s issue of the *Bugle* (see p 7), which explains the town’s challenging financial situation, due largely to a pending lawsuit. It’s only fair, he said, to be transparent with Garrett Park’s residents about a major expenditure—and a major fiscal unknown, should the case drag on for a prolonged period.

There ensued a rather lengthy discussion, using big words about budgets and accounting methods, followed by a unanimous vote to amend the 2008 fiscal year’s town spending plan. There also ensued a rather brief description of how much it’s going to cost to replace the air-conditioning at Town Hall.

The Council also voted to cancel its August meeting, per town tradition—with the proviso that a meeting could still be called. The rule, it seems, is that if you don’t cancel it, you have to have it. But if you cancel, you can choose to have it, anyway. Sort of like a cellphone contract.

Finally, a public service announcement, at the request of Councilmembers Beth Irons and Charles Berry. We prefer to phrase it as a personal

ad: SMS (singular Maryland suburb) seeks PMC (public minded citizens) to serve on HPC (Historic Preservation Committee) and POSC (Parks and Open Spaces Committee). Please express your interest ASAP, so you can show GP a little TLC.

Richard Folkers

## July 4 Events

The Citizens Association thanks everyone who submitted suggestions for the theme for Garrett Park’s 2008 July 4 parade. The theme selected, suggested by Kay Austin, is

*United We Stand—Leaders and Icons that Unite*

The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 7:30–8:00 am Fun Run/Walk registration at Penn Place parking lot (all ages)
- 8:00 am 2-mile Fun Run/Walk begins
- 9:45 am Register for Parade at Garrett Park Elementary School
- 10 am Parade steps off

After the parade will be a ceremony to bestow awards in many categories on parade participants. Garrett Park’s own “Border State” will play original music and country rock hits, and the Citizens Association will offer hot dogs and burgers for sale.

In the afternoon, the festivities continue:

- 1–4 pm Games at Garrett Park Pool
- 3 pm 18th Annual Softball Game at GPES (see story, p 8)

The annual event, which we all enjoy, requires a lot of work to pull off. The Citizens Association is looking for volunteers to help. How about being a parade judge or helping to sell hot dogs and hamburgers after the parade?

If you are interested, please e-mail or call Matthew Stavish if you are available to help.

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

**Citizens Association Officers:**

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# Town Administrator Notes

**Summer Traffic:** With summer here and school out, there will be more people, especially children, walking around town—many going to and coming from the swimming pool and Cambria Park. The new sidewalk from Strathmore Avenue down Keswick Street to the pool makes the journey much safer for pedestrians, but drivers should still exercise great caution near the playground and pool. Also, along Clermont Avenue running down the hill and up again to Montrose Avenue, it is easy to gain speed once you have passed over the speed bump! So drivers need to be careful here, as this is the main route to the pool for residents on the north side of town.

**Lyme Disease:** We are hearing reports of a number of people coming down with this tick-borne illness in recent months. As everyone with a garden knows, there are quite a large number of deer in Garrett Park, and they are the primary host for ticks, but your pets that go outside can also carry them. Ticks looking for a meal will hang out on the underside of plant leaves, grabbing on to passing warm-blooded animals (you!), climb to a convenient place on the body, and dig in. Digging in takes a while, so regular checking of yourself, your children, and your pets will often allow removal of ticks before they start feeding. You might consider having your pets vaccinated. Town maintenance staff regularly cuts back vegetation along the various paths through town parks, but vigilance is always a good policy. For more information, you could check out the following Web sites: [www.lymediseaseassociation.org](http://www.lymediseaseassociation.org) or [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme).

**Large Item Collection:** There will be a large item collection Saturday, July 12.

**Trash Collection:** We have arranged to have our trash and recycling contractor change its schedule so that when Monday is a holiday (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas), all Monday collections will be made on the following Tuesday. This should make things a bit easier.

**Yard Waste:** Please remember to bundle your yard waste or place it in paper bags. Large limbs, sod, dirt, or stones are not collected. After a storm, when there is widespread tree damage throughout the town, the maintenance staff will collect and chip branches brought to the roadside. Please place them butt-end out and not higgledy-piggledy in a pile. This will make it much easier for the crew. However, a private contractor must deal with any major limb-fall or tree loss on your property.

As always, the Town Office will assist you in any way possible.

Ted Pratt  
Town Administrator

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:  
[www.garrettpark-md.gov/](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov/)

# GPES

If you have, or know of, children in town who are not currently registered at GPES, but should be for the next year, call the office (301-929-2170) as soon as possible to start the application process. The number of teachers for next year is determined based on probable class sizes. MCPS Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten programs are recruiting children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2008. For information, call the Judy Center (301-431-7696). Children have to be 5 by September 1 to register for Kindergarten.

Are there any adults out there who would be able to give one hour a week to volunteer as a sponsor of the Homework Club? The club is made up by grade level, and the students who come with their homework can use encouragement and sometimes explanations. Call the principal, Mrs. Chang-Baxter, at the school if you are willing and will be available during the school year.

As an end of the year treat for the students, Jeremy Lichtenstein of Re/Max Realty Services brought the Re/Max hot air balloon to the back field of the school. The students saw the inflation and deflation of the seven-story-high balloon up close and heard an explanation of what the different parts were and how they worked. He provided this opportunity so the children could get excited about something new and learn at the same time. Many thanks, Jeremy.

Finally, we have a new Ilah Gieser Scholarship winner. Chandler Haymore from the estates will receive a year of trumpet lessons. The scholarship is paid for by the GP Women's Club with funds raised by the annual Musicale and other events.

Mary Moyer

# Brush Up Your Elitist Cred

Come to Town Hall on July 13 at 3 pm for an hour of opera highlights. *Bugle* editor Barbara Collier will be joined by Sue Petito, Deborah Kieffer, and Jonathan Paul for arias, duets, and trios by Verdi, Rossini, Puccini, Bizet, and others. The performance is in support of the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship Fund. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will not be repeated until next summer!



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## Citizens Association Meeting

The Citizens Association meeting on May 28 covered two topics: the White Flint development project and the nursery school. Margaret Rifkin from the Montgomery County Department of Planning joined us to discuss the first topic. She gave a history of the project and described how its scope has expanded since its inception in 1992: the project is now to be a mixed-use area where people can work, play, and live. An advisory group of approximately 40 people representing different sectors in the area (business and residential) is advising the county on the project.

A Garrett Park citizen expressed concern that these developments seemed to have been happening in secret. Ms. Rifkin stated that interested citizens should visit the Web site for the project, [www.whiteflintplanning.org](http://www.whiteflintplanning.org), to keep apprised of developments. She also encouraged interested parties to attend the advisory group's meetings, a schedule of which is posted on the Web site.

The second topic for the night was an update on the fate of the community center, which houses the nursery school. There remains much uncertainty as to whether Montgomery County will be willing to continue to support the center financially. The Citizens Association provided a forum to discuss the history, current situation, and possibilities for the future. Pam Morgan gave a presentation on the history of the building, which she had watched being built as a child, when her father was Chairman of the Community Center Board. He kept an archive of documents on its origin and use dating back to the late 1940s. The building was originally a barracks for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, and during World War II, it was used as an Army barracks at Fort Meade. The archives include the original letter from the Fort Meade CCC liquidator who gave the barracks to Garrett Park as part of a national program to reuse CCC assets. Garrett Parkers disassembled the building, moved it to its present location, and performed the labor needed to complete the building after the foundation and shell were constructed by Montgomery County Park and Planning, which retained ownership and maintenance responsibility. The initiative and fund-raising came from the Garrett Park Women's Club, who wanted the town to have a community center in which to congregate. (At that time, what is now the Town Hall was a chapel owned by the Episcopal Church.) Beginning in 1950, the new community center was used for all town meetings and social events for young and old. In 1953, the first pre-school play group began to meet there once a week, and it eventually became the primary tenant as the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School.

Tara Flynn then spoke about the current status of the community center/nursery school. In January, Mary Bradford, Director of the Department of Parks, informed the nursery school that it could continue to operate out of the Garrett Park Community Center until the construction of the new

elementary school, currently slated for 2010. However, in May, the town received a letter from the Chairman of the Park and Planning Commission stating that it was very unlikely that the Parks Department would receive the funds necessary to continue to maintain the building. Shortly after that, it was learned that budget cuts under consideration by the County Council included cutting all funding for centers like Garrett Park's. In response, townspeople, nursery school families, and alumni were urged to call and e-mail their County Council members in protest, which they did in great numbers. The County Council ultimately voted to restore the funding necessary to keep open recreation centers, including the Garrett Park Community Center, for another year. The County Council's final budget did not include funding for the Parks Department to complete the repairs on the building.

It was then discussed what the town should do if funding falls through in the future. A citizen asked if the town would be interested in maintaining or taking over ownership of the building. Mayor Keller, who was present at the meeting, said that before any decision could be contemplated, the town would need more data on renovation costs, annual maintenance costs, and how and whether the property could be transferred to the town. This issue promises to remain active.

See story, p 5, on the Citizens Association-sponsored Pooch Parade. Plans for July Fourth are given on p 2.

**Garrett Park Listserv:** Tap into our neighborhood resources and stay informed with the neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, events, services, and so on. It will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join>.

**Comments for the Citizens Association?** If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail either Matt Stavish or Chris Strong.

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Pooch Parade

On June 7, 17 gorgeous pooches braved the heat to participate in the Second Annual Pooch Parade, sponsored by the Garrett Park Citizens Association. The event featured dogs of all shapes and sizes parading from Penn Place to Montrose to Argyle, past the Farmers Market, and back to Penn Place.

Nine dogs took part in the Trick Contest, won by Taku and owner Beth Irons and trainer Michael Shower (her nephew). "Best in Show" went to Berkeley, an Old English sheepdog, owned by Pearl Shelton. Berkeley finished first in "Best Tail" and second in the "Trick Contest" with his amazing vertical leap. Oreo, with trainer Hannah Kotz, won "Best Costume," donning a homemade t-shirt decorated with an Oreo picture and keychain.

Thanks to the many people who helped make the event a success, including Lara Hines, Carolyn Shawaker, and Judges Zoe Lewis, Sarah Poling, and Georgina Egan. Congratulations to the winners below and to all the participants who made this a fun event.

Prize	1 <sup>st</sup> Place winner	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place winner
Best Costume	Oreo (Hannah & Nancy Kotz)	Harper (Julie Anderson and Andee Strong)
Biggest	Quincy (Bette Runck)	C.D. (Brendan & Carla)
Smallest	Ozzie (Lily Spinard)	None
Best Tail	Berkeley (Pearl Shelton)	Wolfie (Miya & Leona Hiraoka)
Best Ears	Princess (Barbara Shidler, owner Jessye Henley, trainer)	Spencer (Darren Siegel)
Best Coat	S'Mores (Jenn & Elie Zussman)	Dylan (Kometi Neelam)
Best Trick	Taku (Beth Irons, owner Michael Shower, trainer)	Berkeley (Pearl Shelton)

Summer House Guests?

Within walking distance is a resource that could prove useful if you have summer visitors. The Mansion at Strathmore has ongoing art shows, regularly scheduled outdoor concerts, afternoon teas on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, a gift shop, and an hour long tour of the Mansion. The Music Center has varied offerings through the summer. Tours of the building are also available. Contact [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) or 301-581-5100 for information.

**For sale:** 100% wool 8' x 10' oriental (Chinese) carpet. Green with peach and rust patterns, beige fringe. Good condition. \$225. Call 301-933-5689.

Champion Tree Program

The GP Conservation Trust and the Arboretum Committee would like to cosponsor an intergenerational champion tree program to identify the largest specimens of several common native species, block by block. We sincerely wish to involve some youngsters in this activity and are looking for volunteers to serve as block captains. It will be an opportunity to learn about tree identification, raise consciousness about the value of trees, and have some summer fun. Anyone of any age is invited to get involved. Call Ken Ingham or e-mail [conserve@gpctrust.net](mailto:conserve@gpctrust.net).

GIVES

GIVES will collect contributions in the Post Office on July 12, 2008 (not the first Saturday because of the Fourth of July), August 2, and September 6, 2008. We are keeping things afloat thanks to your contributions. We are planning another Soup Supper the first part of November before the holidays—watch the *Bugle* for the date and further information. Have a safe and happy summer.

Glenda Ingham and Karen Anderson

Bugle Takes Summer Break

The *Bugle* staff is off for the summer months. The next edition should show up in your mailboxes around Saturday, September 20.

This issue's banner is green again courtesy of Barry and Mary Jackson Clark (and Joanna and Ruthie) who gave us money from their alpaca farm in Westminster, Maryland. They say they'd love a visit from Garrett Parkers. Just visit their Web site at [www.peacefulhollowfarm.com](http://www.peacefulhollowfarm.com) for directions. We thank them for their contribution to keeping our banner green. We are currently funded through March 2009. Many thanks to all who have sent in their money. If you care to join them, it's a \$37 check made out to the Citizens Association, mailed to me at PO Box 98.

Have you paid your dues yet? The Fourth of July celebration is right around the corner! Mail your family's dues to Box 456.

Mary Moyer

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## Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ The Post Office staff wishes to suggest to residents that you buy the "Forever" stamps and hold on to them for some time before using them. They have plenty in stock.
- ♪ We were saddened by the passing of former mayor Donn Mader, who died at his home on June 8. He had his family with him and was under hospice care. A memorial service was held at Cedar Lane Unitarian Church on June 14. The family requests that donations be made to the Betsy White Emergency Fund in his name. An obituary will be coming in the next *Bugle* (to appear in late September).
- ♪ Scott Shuck says that Grosvenor Market is again sponsoring the pool party on Sunday, July 13. They will provide kosher hot dogs, locally grown beef hamburgers, and other delectables. The event runs from 12 to 2 pm.
- ♪ Ned Dolan reports that granddaughter Andrea Taylor graduated from Fordham University with a BA in mid-east studies and psychology in May.
- ♪ Strathmore is looking for used musical instruments. In partnership with Hungry for Music, a Washington-based nonprofit dedicated to donating instruments to young people who cannot otherwise afford them, they are holding an instrument drive all summer long. Just bring them to the summer concerts.
- ♪ Condolences to Ed Lincoln on the death of his father, Orrin Lincoln, on Monday, June 2. He died at his home in New Jersey.
- ♪ Kajak Balekjian now resides in the Aspenwood Retirement Community on Homecrest Road in Silver Spring.
- ♪ Keep the *Bugle* in mind and give us short tidbits for the next issue on your summer doings and happenings. We'll be glad to hear where everyone went for vacations, who got married, who had babies, or anything else. Thanks.

## Off the Beaten Track

Frogs and toads, birds and butterflies, lotus and water lilies—the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens! The only national park cultivating water-loving plants, the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is a 12-acre sanctuary featuring exotic water lilies and lotus. Adjacent to a busy neighborhood of far northeast Washington, this oasis on the east bank of the Anacostia River is a collection of shallow lily ponds and dikes, bordered by tidal marsh.

Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens is open daily from 7 am to 4 pm. Summer is the best time to see the extraordinary blooms on the water lilies and lotus, and the best time of day is very early. Flowers close when it gets above 89 or 90 degrees, and don't open again until the next morning. These blossoms are not to be missed!

The park is also home to American and Fowler's toads, several species of salamanders, and frogs. Butterflies are attracted to the flowers. If

you are a birder, the best time of year is autumn. Many migratory birds make the gardens one of their stops.

The entrance to the Aquatic Gardens is at 1550 Anacostia Avenue, NE. You may bring a picnic (there are picnic tables), and definitely bring water. There are no vending machines in the park. Tours of the gardens are offered at 9 and 11 am on Saturday and Sunday, and no reservations are needed. Occasional programs are offered during the week, so check at the Visitor Center if you are interested.

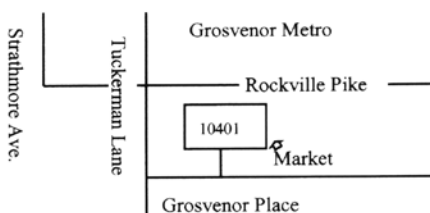
For more information and directions, log on to the Web site at [www.nps.gov/keaq/](http://www.nps.gov/keaq/) or call 202-426-6905.

If you have a favorite place you wish highlighted, send your submission to Henri Keller or Alix Levy. You may also call Henri.

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## Letter from the Mayor

As noted in this column over the years, Garrett Park is fortunate to have so many dedicated residents who generously volunteer their time and talents. Few people contributed more to Garrett Park than Donn Mader, who passed away on June 8. Donn was among those residents of the town and Garrett Park Estates who constructed the community center, and he was one of the founders of the swimming pool. After several years on the Town Council, Donn served as Mayor from 1978 to 1982. He continued to volunteer—most recently as a valued member of the Setback Advisory Committee—until his death. Donn's son Doug will continue one of Donn's volunteer tasks—clearing the Penn Place bulletin board on the first of each month. Thus are Garrett Park traditions carried on... but we will certainly miss Donn.

On June 30, the Council will meet at 7:30 pm at Town Hall for a special session to adjust the fiscal year 2008 budget. I want to tell you why this uncommon meeting is necessary, but first a bit of background: The town's fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30. Each January, the Mayor and Town Administrator begin the process of preparing the upcoming year's budget, which is then refined and adopted by the Council, typically in April. The town relies on revenue and expenditure projections from state and county sources, but primarily on its own accumulated experience with town finances. The town budgets conservatively, using cautious projections of revenue and realistic, inflation-adjusted estimates of expenditures. It also makes constant efforts to be prudent in its spending. Nonetheless, as you can imagine, projecting figures for a period so far in advance occasionally results in the necessity for budget adjustments—typically small and usually attributable to unanticipated developments, such as severe storms, unforeseen rises in energy costs, or unexpected revenue-sharing cutbacks by the state and county.

The current, 2008 fiscal year's budget was no exception; capably developed by Town Administrator Ted Pratt and my predecessor, Carolyn Shawaker, with the participation of the Council and interested residents, the budget has proven remarkably accurate (despite increasing uncertainty in the economy) and has required relatively modest adjustments, with one extraordinary, major exception: expenditures for professional services will total nearly \$50,000 more than was originally budgeted, through a calculation based on historical norms. The increase is attributable to legal fees, and the vast majority of those have been expended defending the town against a lawsuit filed earlier this year by two town residents.

The suit asks the court to invalidate, chiefly on procedural grounds, long-standing Garrett Park

ordinances having to do with land use controls. The town's law, setting more stringent setback requirements for construction in Garrett Park than for Montgomery County, was adopted in 1992 in response to concerns about loss of open space in town, and was approved by residents in a subsequent referendum. Over the years, the law was refined to reflect unique concerns for Garrett Park—for example, to recognize the distinctive status of small lots and the desirability of front porches. The underlying cause of the current suit was the town's denial in January 2008 of a building permit that sought permission for additional construction on a house that was already at the limit of its permissible lot occupancy. The applicants were specifically notified of the availability of an administrative appeal, but they did not apply for a variance from the town. Before the lawsuit, the town also attempted to communicate through counsel with the applicants, to remediate the situation, but was not successful in reaching accommodation.

Oral argument is scheduled for July 15 on the town's motion to dismiss and the motions by both parties for summary judgment, which ask the court to make a ruling without a full trial. The town has been advised by its lawyers—including a long-time counsel to Garrett Park and several other Montgomery County municipalities—that the suit is meritless. The town expects to prevail in this suit, but had no choice other than to defend itself. Because the litigation is ongoing, if you wish more details about this suit, we need to refer you to the pleadings, which are publicly available in the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, 50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville (Martin v. Town of Garrett Park, Civ. No. 292325-V). The Town Office also has a copy of the pleadings, and if there is sufficient interest, we may post them on the town Web site, [www.garrettpark-md.gov](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov).

Unlike prior lawsuits by residents against the town, this suit does not name individual defendants and does not seek monetary damages; for that reason, attorneys' fees are not covered by the town's insurance. To date, the town has been billed over \$32,000 for legal fees, with more to come. The most recent bill was received after the last adjustment to the budget, at the June 9 Council meeting; hence the need for the June 30 meeting. Thank you for bearing with me in this lengthy explanation, but I thought it important that all residents be aware of such a significant impact on the town budget and the reason for it.

I look forward to the prospect of conveying more cheerful news in September. In the meantime, my best wishes to all for a glorious Fourth of July and a pleasant summer.

Chris Keller

# Congratulations, Graduates

This year, Garrett Park sees the mini-baby boom of the late 1980's start to head off to college. This group has distinguished itself with some outstanding accomplishments across the board. Here are the high school graduates:

Ross Tollefson, graduating from WJ, will attend Illinois Wesleyan University, where he will pursue a Bachelor of Music in French horn performance. He was the recipient of Walter Johnson first-chair designation for French horn in both the symphonic orchestra and wind ensemble. As a high school student, he played symphonic masterworks with the George Washington University Orchestra and the NIH Philharmonic. He earned All-State and All-County Orchestra chairs and was appointed student mentor-leader for the WJ brass section.

Timothy Casassa, graduating from WJ, will attend Goucher College in Towson, Maryland. He has been on the Honor Roll all 4 years, is in the National Honor Society and the Madrigals, and is the recipient of the Global Citizen Scholarship. He is also an Eagle Scout.

Meagan Morse, graduating in the top 5 percent of her WJ class as an APEX scholar, will attend Brown University in the fall. She is also a Maryland State Distinguished Scholar and received an Excellence in Spanish Literature award.

Max Coleman, graduating from St. Andrew's Episcopal School, will be attending the University of Maryland in the fall to study aerospace engineering.

David Altar, graduating from WJ, will attend Montgomery College in the fall.

Kelly Folker, graduating from WJ, will be attending Denison University in Ohio. She is a recipient of a Founders Scholarship at Denison based on "academic achievement, leadership and personal merit."

Ted Lillie, graduating from WJ, has been accepted into the Scholars Program and the School of Engineering at the University of Maryland. During his 4 years at WJ, he was a member of

the It's Academic team (reaching the city semi-finals), and played varsity golf, basketball, and volleyball. He is co-captain of this year's undefeated division championship volleyball team. He too is an Eagle Scout.

Daniel Pearlman, graduating in the top 5 percent of his WJ class, is a Maryland State Distinguished Scholar and received the Excellence in Physics Award as top student in physics. He will attend Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY, in the fall, to study physics and math.

And we have some college grads, too:

Melanie Altar is graduating from UC Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in public health. She will be returning to Garrett Park this summer to start an Internship with the Center for Health and Gender Equity in Takoma Park, Maryland. And she won't be lonely because her boyfriend from Norway will be staying with the Altars this summer.

Thomas Christian Larsen is getting a master of arts degree with honors in international business from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

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## 18th Annual Softball Game

When Dave Almy first arrived in Garrett Park in 1971, he was asked to draw a flyer for the 4th of July celebration, which he has continued to do ever since. The schedule of events for that day included "The 18th annual softball game." When he did the flyer the next year, he naturally wrote the 19th annual softball game. He was corrected, and told that it is always the 18th annual softball game. It has been that way ever since, and nobody knows why or how that tradition started. The game pits Garrett Park against players from Garrett Park Estates and White Flint Park. It is open to most all ages and ladies are welcome to participate. Please get out your mitts and bats and get your friends to come to the Garrett Park Elementary School at 3 pm on the 4th, and continue the tradition by playing the 18th annual softball game.